

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 33, lines 26-33 as follows:

-- It was reasoned that amplification of a smaller region of the devR gene was likely to provide equivalent/better sensitivity with paucibacillary and smear negative samples. With this idea in mind two new primer pairs were designed to amplify shorter fragments of the devR gene. The 'short target' PCR assays were assessed first on purified M. tuberculosis DNA and subsequently validated on clinical specimens. The 'short target' primer pairs are, (i) devRf2 (SEQ ID NO. 1), ~~5'-TGGCAACGGCATTGAACTGT-3'~~ and devRr2 (SEQ ID NO. 2), ~~5'-TAAGCAGGCCCAGTAGCGT-3'~~ and (ii) devRf3 (SEQ ID NO. 3), ~~5'-ATCTGTTGTCCCGCATGCC-3'~~ and devRr3 (SEQ ID NO. 4), ~~5'-GTCCAGCGCCACATCATT-3'~~. --